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Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing is the patent application of

Inventor(s): TANAKA, Hiroshi

For: IMAGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Enclosed are:

X A specification consisting of 44 pages

X 14 sheet(s) of formal drawings

X An assignment of the invention

X Certified copy of Priority Document(s)

X Executed Declaration X Original      Photocopy

     A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37  
CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27

     Preliminary Amendment

     Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 and reference(s)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

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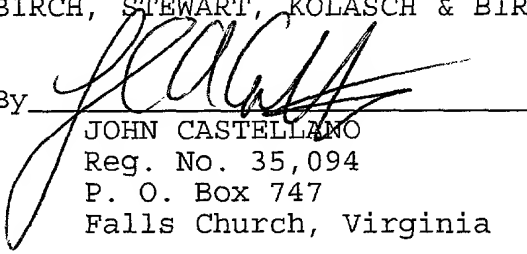
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Respectfully submitted,

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## SPECIFICATION

### TITLE OF THE INVENTION IMAGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

5

#### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

##### Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an image communication system comprising an image processor (e.g., a digital still camera) and a portable telephone set which can establish data communication with each other, a portable telephone set and a method of controlling its operations, and a digital camera and a method of controlling its operations.

##### 15 Background of the Invention

Portable telephone sets (including PHS (Personal Handy Phone)) have spread by reducing the costs thereof. Speech communication can be established outdoors by carrying the portable telephone sets.

20 On the other hand, as personal computers have been developed, digital still cameras have generally spread. It is possible to image a subject using the digital still camera, acquire data representing an image of the subject in the personal computer, and process the image in the computer.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

An object of the present invention to realize

communication of image data between a digital still camera and a computer utilizing a portable telephone set.

Another object of the present invention is to improve operability without sacrificing portability of a portable telephone set in a case where at least one of transmission and receiving of image data is performed.

In an image communication system according to the present invention, an image processor (e.g., an electronic digital still camera) and a portable telephone set can establish data communication with each other. Image data representing an image is stored in the image processor, and a reading command to read out the image data is issued to the image processor from the portable telephone set.

The image processor comprises first transmission means for transmitting the stored image data to the portable telephone set in response to the reading command issued from the portable telephone set.

The portable telephone set comprises setting means for setting a destination of transmission of the image data, receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from the first transmission means of the image processor, and second transmission means for transmitting the image data received by the receiving means to the destination of transmission set by the setting means through a communication network.

According to the present invention, the reading command to read out the image data is issued to the image

processor (a digital camera, a personal computer, an image file device, etc.) from the portable telephone set.

When the reading command is issued to the image processor, the image data stored in the image processor is  
5 read out, and is transmitted to the portable telephone set.

In the portable telephone set, the destination of transmission of the image data is set (the destination of transmission may be entered, data representing the destination of transmission may be read from a recording  
10 medium, or the data representing the destination of transmission may be received). The image data transmitted from the image processor is received, and the received image data is transmitted to the set destination of transmission (e.g., an image server, an image file device, a printer, a  
15 computer, a digital camera and so on) through the network.

A user can transmit the image data stored in the image processor to the other image processor through the network using the portable telephone set by only operating the portable telephone set. The image processor need not be  
20 operated. Accordingly, the operation can be prevented from being complicated.

The portable telephone set and the image processor are separate from each other. Accordingly, the image communication system is smaller in size, as compared with an  
25 apparatus which is the integration of the portable telephone set and the image processor. The image communication system is convenient when they are separately carried.

Both the data communication between the image processor and the portable telephone set and the data communication between the portable telephone set and the destination of transmission may be established by radio. In this case, a radio frequency band between the image processor and the portable telephone set and a radio frequency band between the portable telephone set and the destination of transmission may differ from each other.

In the portable telephone set, image data which should be transmitted to the destination of transmission set by the setting means may be selected, and the data specifying the selected image data may be transmitted to the image processor. In this case, the image data transmitted from the image processor will be transmitted to the destination of transmission in accordance with the selected data.

It is possible to transmit desired image data to the destination of transmission from the image processor by operating the portable telephone set.

List data representing a list of image data may be stored in the image processor. In this case, the portable telephone set further comprises means for receiving the data representing the list of image data which is stored in the image processor. The data representing the list is transmitted to the portable telephone set from the image processor. The image data which should be received is selected from the list represented by the list data received

by the list receiving means.

It is possible to relatively simply select the data which should be transmitted to the destination of transmission.

5           The portable telephone set may comprise second receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted through the network, and second transmission means for transmitting the image data received by the second receiving means to another image processor.

10           The image data transmitted through the network can be received by the portable telephone set. The received image data can be transmitted to and stored in the image processor.

          The portable telephone set may further comprise  
15 judgment means for judging whether or not the amount of the image data to be received by the second receiving means is not more than the amount of data which can be stored in the another image processor. In this case, the second receiving means will receive the image data when it is judged that the  
20 data amount of the image data to be received by the second receiving means is not more than the amount of data which can be stored in the another image processor.

          In order to make the judgment, prior to receiving the image data to be received by the second receiving means, for  
25 example, data representing the amount of the image data to be received and the data representing the amount of data which can be stored in the image processor will be

respectively transmitted to the portable telephone set. The judgment is made on the basis of the data transmitted to the portable telephone set.

Only when the image data can be stored in the another  
5 image processor, the image data is received by the portable telephone set.

The portable telephone set may further comprise receiving command means for entering a command to receive the image data. In this case, the second receiving means  
10 will receive the image data when the receiving command is entered from the receiving command means.

When the user desires to receive the image data, the image data transmitted through the telephone line can be received.

15 For example, image data representing a list of reduced images (e.g., thumbnail images), image data representing a reduced image, data representing a list of images, and so forth are transmitted to the portable telephone set. In the portable telephone set, the reduced  
20 image may be confirmed, and image data representing the original image of the reduced image may be received. Alternatively, a list of frame numbers of images may be displayed, and the image to be received may be selected (a receiving command) from the list.

25 Although in the portable telephone set, the image data can be transmitted, the portable telephone set may be used for receiving the image data, or may be used for both



transmission and receiving.

Specifically, in a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a portable telephone set which can establish data communication with an image processor  
5 storing image data characterized by comprising receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted through a communication network; and transmission means for transmitting the image data received by the receiving means to the image processor.

10 In the second aspect of the present invention, there is also provided a method of controlling the operations of the portable telephone set. That is, in a portable telephone set which can establish data communication with an image processor storing image data, the method is  
15 characterized in that the image data transmitted through the network is received, and the received image data is transmitted to the image processor.

In the second aspect of the present invention, it is possible to receive the image data transmitted through the  
20 network and transmit the image data to the image processor.

In a third aspect of the present invention, there is provided a digital still camera which is suitable for data communication with the portable telephone set. That is, the digital still camera which can establish data communication  
25 with a portable telephone set and can store image data is characterized by comprising receiving means for receiving a reading command issued from the portable telephone set, and

transmission means for transmitting the stored image data to the portable telephone set in response to the reading command received by the receiving means.

In the third aspect of the present invention, there is also provided a method which is suitable for the digital camera. That is, in the digital camera which can establish data communication with a portable telephone set and can store image data, the method is characterized in that a reading command issued from the portable telephone set is received, and the stored image data is transmitted to the portable telephone set in response to the received reading command.

Image data which should be transmitted to the portable telephone set may be determined by being selected by a user, for example. In this case, the transmission means transmits the determined image data to the portable telephone set in response to the reading command.

The foregoing and other objects, features, aspects and advantages of the present invention will become more apparent from the following detailed description of the present invention when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 illustrates the outline of an image communication system;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view showing a digital still camera as viewed from the rear;

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of the digital still camera;

Fig. 4 illustrates the file structure of a memory card mounted on the digital still camera;

5 Fig. 5 is a diagram showing a portable telephone set as viewed from the front;

Fig. 6 is an example of a display screen of the portable telephone set;

10 Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of the portable telephone set;

Fig. 8 is a flow chart showing a part of the procedure of processing for creating a list of images to be transmitted;

15 Fig. 9 is a flow chart showing another part of the procedure of processing for creating a list of images to be transmitted;

Fig. 10 is a flow chart showing the procedure of processing at the time of transmitting image data;

20 Fig. 11 is a flow chart showing the procedure of processing at the time of receiving image data;

Fig. 12 is a flow chart showing the procedure of processing at the time of transmitting image data;

Fig. 13 illustrates an example of a list of recorded images; and

25 Fig. 14 is a flow chart showing the procedure of processing at the time of receiving image data.

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 illustrates the outline of an image communication system according to an embodiment of the present invention.

The image communication system includes a communication (transmission-receiving) system 200A, a communication (transmission-receiving) system 200B, and a server 100 which can establish data communication with one another. In the communication systems 200A and 200B image data can also be transmitted and received.

In the present embodiment, the image data is transmitted once to the server 100 from the one communication system 200A through a network (a telephone line) (wireless i.e., radio or wire). The image data is transmitted to the other communication system 200B from the server 100 through the network. It goes without saying that the image data can be transmitted from the one communication system 200A to the other communication system 200B through the network without through the server 100.

Although in the present embodiment, the image data is transmitted from the one communication system 200A to the other communication system 200B, it goes without saying that the image data can be transmitted to the one communication system 200A from the other communication system 200B. Further, although both the communication systems 200A and 200B can transmit and receive the image data, one of the systems may be for transmission only, and the other system may be for receiving only.



number is decremented) 6, and a mode setting dial (modes include a set-up mode, an image reproduction (playback: PB) mode, an imaging mode, a communication mode, etc.) 7.

On the rear surface of the digital still camera 1A,  
5 a display screen 9 of a liquid crystal display device is formed on nearly the entire surface thereof. An image is displayed on the display screen 9. The display screen 9 further includes an area 10 where a mode currently set is displayed, an area 11 where a frame number of the displayed  
10 image appears, and an area 12 indicating whether the image displayed on the display screen 9 is picked up in a highly precise imaging (PRECISE) mode (the compression ratio is low), is picked up in a standard mode (the standard compression ratio), or is picked up in an economy mode (the  
15 compression ratio is high). Further, the display screen 9 includes an area where a selected icon 13 indicating that the image is registered in the list, described later, appears, and an area 14 where the current date and time are displayed.

20 Furthermore, a power switch 8 is provided in an upper part of the rear surface of the digital still camera 1A.

Fig. 3 is a block diagram showing the electrical configuration of the digital still camera 1A.

25 The overall operation of the digital still camera 1A is supervised by a CPU 20.

A memory 27 for temporarily storing various data

inclusive of image data is externally (attachably and detachably) attached to the CPU 20.

A signal representing the depression of each of the switches included in the group of operation switches 15 is inputted to the CPU 20.

A memory card slot 30 is formed in the digital still camera 1A. A memory card 31 is mounted on the slot 30 so as to be attachable and detachable.

Furthermore, the digital still camera 1A comprises a transmission-receiving circuit 28 and a built-in antenna 29 for establishing data communication with the portable telephone set 40A.

When the imaging mode is set by the mode setting dial 7, a subject is picked up by an image pickup device 21. An image signal representing an image of the subject is inputted to a signal processing circuit 22. The image signal is converted into digital image data in the signal processing circuit 22. Further, the digital image data is subjected to predetermined signal processing such as white balance adjustment or gamma correction in the signal processing circuit 22. Image data outputted from the signal processing circuit 22 is fed to a digital-analog conversion circuit 24 through a frame memory 23.

Predetermined (suitable) character data is outputted from a character generator 25, and is fed to the digital-analog conversion circuit 24.

In the digital-analog conversion circuit 24, image

data and character data are respectively converted into analog signals. The analog signal obtained by the conversion is fed to a liquid crystal display device 9 (the liquid crystal display device is assigned the same sign as the display screen), and the image of the subject picked up is displayed on the display screen of the display device 9.

When the shutter release button 2 is pressed, image data representing the subject image is temporarily stored in the frame memory 23. The image data is read out of the frame memory 23, and is fed to a compression and expansion (decompression) circuit 26. The image data is compressed in the circuit 26. The compressed image data is fed to a memory card 31 through the memory card slot 30, and is recorded thereon.

When the communication mode is set by the mode setting dial 7, the image data recorded on the memory card 31 is read out, and is fed to the transmission-receiving circuit 28 at the time of transmitting the image. A signal modulated by the image data is fed to the built-in antenna 29 from the transmission-receiving circuit 28. The image data is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40A from the digital still camera 1A by the built-in antenna 29.

At the time of receiving the image, a signal modulated by the image data transmitted from the portable telephone set 1A is received by the built-in antenna 29. The image data extracted from the received signal by demodulation in the transmission-receiving circuit 28 is



recorded on the memory card 31.

When the reproduction mode is set by the mode setting dial 7, the image data recorded on the memory card 31 is read out, and is inputted to the compression and expansion circuit 26. In the circuit 26, the compressed image data is decompressed. The decompressed image data is inputted to the digital-analog conversion circuit 24 through the frame memory 23. In the digital-analog conversion circuit 24, the image data is converted into an analog image signal. The analog image signal is fed to the liquid crystal display device 9. A reproduced image is displayed on the display screen of the liquid crystal display device 9.

Fig. 4 illustrates the file structure of image data (image files) recorded on the memory card 31.

By a ROOT directory, a directory having a directory name "001Vacation", a directory having a directory name "002Birthday", and a directory having a directory name "List" are managed.

Both the directory having the directory name "001Vacation" and the directory having the directory name "002Birthday" manage the image files.

By the directory having the directory name "001Vacation", image files having file names "DSCF0001.JPG", "DSCF0002.JPG", "DSCF0003.JPG", "DSCF0004.JPG", "DSCF0005.JPG", etc. are managed. A connection between a directory name and a file name is a path to an image file

having the file name. Further, numerals included in the directory name are a directory number, and numerals included in the file name are a file number. A numeral including the directory number and the file number connected to each other  
5 with a hyphen is the frame number.

By the directory having the directory name "002Birthday", image files having file names "DSCF0001.JPG", "DSCF0003.JPG", "DSCF0004.JPG", etc. are managed. The file numbers may not necessarily be serial numbers.

10 By the directory having the directory name "List", a transmission list (a list of frame numbers ("0001-0002", etc.) in an image file to be transmitted out of image files recorded on the memory card 31) is managed using a text file.

15 Fig. 5 illustrates the appearance of the portable telephone set 40A as viewed from the front.

On an upper part of the portable telephone set 40A, an antenna 41 for establishing data communication (speech communication) with the other portable telephone set 40B,  
20 the server 100, and so forth through the network is provided.

In an upper part of the front surface of the portable telephone set 40A, a speaker 42 for outputting voice is provided.

25 Below the speaker 42, a liquid crystal display screen 43 is formed. The liquid crystal display screen 43 includes an area 46 representing the remaining capacity of a battery

in the portable telephone set 40A, an area 47 representing the degree of receiving of radio waves by the portable telephone set 40A, and an area 45 representing a menu (a mode) currently set. Further, the liquid crystal display screen 43 includes an area 44 where a thumb-nail image is displayed, and a selecting area 48 where frame numbers of images which can be selected, menus which can be selected, and so forth are displayed. A frame 49 for representing the frame number or the like to be selected is also displayed.

Below the liquid crystal display screen 43, there are provided a telephone book (directory: DIR) button 51 pressed by a user when a list of stored telephone numbers is displayed on the display screen 43, a setting (SET) button 52 pressed by the user when a setting command is issued, and a menu button 53 pressed by the user when a menu is displayed on the liquid crystal display screen 43.

An up-down and right-left button 54 is arranged below the buttons 51, 52, and 53. An up-arrow, a down-arrow, a left-arrow, and a right-arrow are formed on the up-down and right-left button 54. Portions where the arrows are indicated can be pressed. A signal indicating which of the arrows is pressed is inputted by pressing the portion of the arrow.

Below the up-down and right-left button 54, a call button 55, a clear (CL) button 56, and a cut button 57 are formed. A ten-key pad 58 is formed below the buttons 55, 56, and 57.

A microphone 59 for inputting voice is formed in a lower part on the front surface of the portable telephone set 40A.

Fig. 6 illustrates another example of the liquid  
5 crystal display screen 43 of the portable telephone set 40A.

When the above-mentioned menu button 53 is pressed, the liquid crystal display screen 43 is as shown in Fig. 6.

Selectable modes are displayed in the selecting area 48. In the present embodiment, the selectable modes include  
10 an image transmission (IMAGE SEND) mode, an image receiving (IMAGE RECEIVE) mode, a mail transmission (MAIL SEND) mode, a mail receiving (MAIL RECEIVE) mode, a speech communication mode and so on.

The frame 49 rises upward by pressing the up-arrow in  
15 the up-down and right-left button 54, while falling downward by pressing the down-arrow. The setting button 52 is pressed when the desired mode is enclosed by the frame 49, so that the mode enclosed by the frame 49 is set.

Fig. 7 is a block diagram showing the electrical  
20 configuration of the portable telephone set 40A.

The overall operation of the portable telephone set 40A is supervised by a CPU 60.

A nonvolatile memory 65 storing telephone numbers, electronic mail addresses, URLs (Uniform Resource Locator)  
25 is connected to the CPU 60.

A memory 66 temporarily storing various data is externally attached to the CPU 60.

A signal representing the depression of each of the above-mentioned switches 51~57 (a group of operation switches 67) is inputted to the CPU 60.

The voice inputted from the microphone 59 is  
5 modulated in a modulation circuit 73, and the modulated voice is fed to an analog-to-digital conversion circuit 74. In the analog-to-digital conversion circuit 74, an analog signal of the voice (modulated signal) is converted into digital voice data.

10 A signal representing the voice data is transmitted to a telephone set at the other end of the line from a built-in antenna through a transmission-receiving buffer 63 and a transmission-receiving circuit 64.

A signal representing the voice data transmitted from  
15 the telephone set at the other end of the line is received in the transmission-receiving circuit 64 through the built-in antenna 41. The voice data is fed to a digital-to-analog conversion circuit 72 through the transmission-receiving buffer 63. The voice data is converted into an analog voice  
20 signal in the digital-to-analog conversion circuit 72. The analog voice signal obtained by the conversion is demodulated in a demodulation circuit 71, and the demodulated analog voice signal is outputted as voice from the speaker 42.

25 When the image transmission mode is set, a signal modulated by the image data and transmitted from the digital still camera 1A is received by a built-in antenna 61, and is

demodulated in a transmission-receiving circuit 62. The image data is outputted from the transmission-receiving circuit 62, and is temporarily stored in the transmission-receiving buffer 63.

5           The image data is outputted from the transmission-receiving buffer 63, and is fed to the transmission-receiving circuit 64. In the transmission-receiving circuit 64, a carrier having a frequency of 1.5 GHz is modulated by the image data. The carrier modulated by the image data is  
10   fed to the built-in antenna 41. The carrier modulated by the image data is transmitted to the server 100 or the portable telephone set 40B through the network by the built-in antenna 41.

          When the image receiving mode is set, a signal  
15   modulated by the image data transmitted through the network is received by the built-in antenna 41, and is demodulated in the transmission-receiving circuit 64. The image data is outputted from the transmission-receiving circuit 64, is fed to the transmission-receiving buffer 63, and is temporarily  
20   stored therein.

          The image data is outputted from the transmission-receiving buffer 63, and is fed to the transmission-receiving circuit 62. The transmission-receiving circuit 62 has a carrier having a frequency (2.4 GHz) different from  
25   the carrier in the transmission-receiving circuit 64. The carrier having a frequency of 2.4 GHz is modulated by the image data. The carrier modulated by the image data is fed

to the built-in antenna 61. The carrier is transmitted to the digital still camera 1A by the built-in antenna 61.

When the image data is transmitted from the one communication system 200A to the other communication system 200B, there are a case where frame numbers of images of frames are previously registered in a transmission list, and image data are transmitted in accordance with the list, and a case where images represented by image data to be transmitted are designated for each frame.

Figs. 8 and 9 are flow charts showing the procedure of processing in a case where frame numbers of images represented by image data to be transmitted are registered in the transmission list. The processing is performed by the digital still camera 1A.

The reproduction mode is first set by the mode setting dial 7. It is confirmed whether or not the memory card 31 is mounted on the digital still camera 1A and an image file is recorded on the memory card 31 (step 81).

When the image file is recorded on the memory card 31 (YES at step 81), the largest frame number and the smallest frame number of the image files recorded on the memory card 31 are respectively acquired (step 82). A displayed frame number (a frame number of an image to be displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9) is set to the largest frame number (step 83). Consequently, image data representing the image having the displayed frame number is read out of the memory card 31, and is fed to the liquid crystal display

device 9. The image having the displayed frame number is displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 (step 84).

It is confirmed whether or not the increment button 5 or the decrement button 6 is pressed (step 85). The  
5 displayed frame number is incremented when the increment button 5 is pressed, while being decremented when the decrement button 6 is pressed (step 86).

If the frame number to be displayed is larger than the largest frame number by being incremented, the displayed  
10 frame number is changed into the smallest frame number. On the other hand, if the frame number to be displayed is smaller than the smallest frame number by being decremented, the displayed frame number is changed into the largest frame number (step 87).

15 When the image data representing the image having the displayed frame number is recorded in the memory card 31 (YES at step 88), the image data is read out of the memory card 31, and is fed to the liquid crystal display device 9. The image having the displayed frame number is displayed on  
20 the liquid crystal display device 9 (step 84). If the image data representing the image having the displayed frame number is not recorded in the memory card 31 due to a missing number, for example (NO at step 88), the processing at the steps 86 and 87 is repeated.

25 When the frame number of the image data representing the image displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 is added into the transmission list, the increment button 5



or the decrement button 6 is not pressed (No at step 85),  
and the setting button 4 is pressed (YES at step 89).

Consequently, it is confirmed whether or not the frame  
number of the image which is displayed has already been

5 registered in the transmission list (the frame number  
coincides with any of the frame numbers included in the  
image file "LIST.TXT" managed by the directory having the  
directory name "List", as shown in Fig. 4) (step 90). If  
the frame number of the image which is displayed on the  
10 liquid crystal display device 9 has not been registered in  
the transmission list (NO at step 90), the frame number of  
the image which is displayed is registered in the  
transmission list (step 91). When the frame number of the  
image which is displayed on the liquid crystal display  
15 device 9 has already been registered (YES at step 90), the  
processing at the step 91 is skipped.

When the setting button 4 and the erase button 3 are  
simultaneously pressed (YES at step 92), it is confirmed  
whether or not the frame number of the image which is

20 displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 has already  
been registered in the transmission list (step 93). If the  
frame number of the image has been registered (YES at step  
93), the frame number of the image which is displayed is  
erased from the transmission list (step 94).

25 The processing at the steps 84 to 94 is repeated, as  
required.

When the other mode is set by the mode setting dial 7

(YES at step 95), processing corresponding to the set mode is performed.

When no image file is included in the memory card 31 mounted on the digital still camera 1A (No at step 81),  
5 "There is no image" is displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 (step 96).

In the above-mentioned manner, the transmission list is constructed, and is stored in the memory card 31.

Fig. 10 illustrates the procedure of processing in a  
10 case where image data are transmitted to the server 100 from the digital still camera 1A and the portable telephone set 40A which constitute the communication system 200A in accordance with the transmission list previously constructed in the camera 1A.

15 As described above, the transmission list is registered in the memory card 31 mounted on the digital still camera 1A. Thereafter, the communication mode is set by the mode setting dial 7 in the digital still camera 1A.

The menu button 53 in the portable telephone set 40A  
20 is pressed, so that selectable modes are displayed in the selecting area 48 of the liquid crystal display screen 43. The image transmission mode is set using the up-down and right-left button 54 and the setting button 52. Further, a destination of transmission is set using the ten-key 58 or  
25 the telephone number button 51 (a telephone number, URL or an electronic mail address for making access to the server 100).

Communication between the digital still camera 1A and the portable telephone set 40A is established. Further, communication between the portable telephone set 40A and the image server 100 is established by pressing the call button

5 55.

When the setting button 52 in the portable telephone set 40A is depressed, an image reading command is transmitted to the digital still camera 1A from the built-in antenna 61.

10 When the image reading command transmitted from the portable telephone set 40A is received in the digital still camera 1A, the image data corresponding to the first frame number which is stored in the transmission list is read out of the memory card 31. The image data read out is fed to

15 the liquid crystal display device 9 in the digital still camera 1A, and is displayed thereon. Image data representing images displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 are successively transmitted in packet units to the portable telephone set 40A.

20 In the portable telephone set 40A, the image data transmitted from the digital still camera 1A are successively received. The images represented by the received image data are successively displayed in the area 44 on the liquid crystal display screen 43 in the portable

25 telephone set 40A.

The image data transmitted in packet units from the digital still camera 1A to the portable telephone set 40A

are successively transmitted in packet units to the server 100 from the portable telephone set 40A.

In the server 100, the image data transmitted from the portable telephone set 40A are successively received.

5 Image data corresponding to one frame is uploaded in the server 100.

In the same manner, the packet transmission of image data representing images corresponding to m frames which are registered in the transmission list from the digital still  
10 camera 1A to the portable telephone set 40A and the packet transmission thereof from the portable telephone set 40A to the server 100 are repeated in accordance with the transmission list.

When the transmission of the image data representing  
15 all the images which are registered in the transmission list is terminated, the digital still camera 1A informs the portable telephone set 40A that all the image data have been transmitted, so that the communication is cut off.

Fig. 11 is a flow chart showing the procedure of  
20 processing in a case where all image data which have been uploaded in the server 100 are transmitted from the server 100 to the communication system 200B comprising the portable telephone set 40B and the digital still camera 1B.

In the server 100, image data representing a list of  
25 thumb-nail images corresponding to the images represented by the image data which have been uploaded in the server 100 shall be produced. It goes without saying that the data

representing the list of thumb-nail images may be produced in the digital still camera 1A and transmitted to the server 100 from the digital still camera 1A through the portable telephone set 40A.

5           At the time of receiving the image data, the digital still camera 1B is set in the communication mode, and the portable telephone set 40B is set in the image receiving mode. Further, in the portable telephone set 40B, an identification of the server 100 which should transmit image  
10 data is set (a telephone number, URL or an electronic mail address of the server 100 is set).

When communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the digital still camera 1B is established, data representing the remaining capacity of a memory card mounted  
15 on the digital still camera 1B is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the digital still camera 1B.

Furthermore, when communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the server 100 is established, data representing the amount of all image data to be transmitted  
20 is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100. It goes without saying that the amount of image data is previously calculated in the server 100.

Furthermore, image data representing a list of images is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the  
25 server 100.

When the image data representing the list of images is received in the portable telephone set 40B, the images

are listed on the liquid crystal display screen 43. Since the liquid crystal display screen 43 in the portable telephone set 40B is relatively small, it is preferable that the thumb-nail images are displayed for each frame.

5           The image data representing the list of images is transmitted to the digital still camera 1B from the portable telephone set 40B. The list of images is also displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 in the digital still camera 1B.

10           When the setting button 52 in the portable telephone set 1B is pressed by the user, a transmission command is issued to the server 100 from the portable telephone set 1B.

          When the transmission command from the portable telephone set 1B is received in the server 100, the image  
15   data are transmitted in packet units to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100.

          When the image data are received in packet units in the portable telephone set 40B, the received image data are transmitted in packet units to the digital still camera 1B  
20   from the portable telephone set 40B. When the image data corresponding to one frame is received in the digital still camera 1B, the received image data is recorded on the memory card. An image represented by the received image data is displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 in the  
25   digital still camera 1B.

          The successive transmission of the image data from the server 100 to the portable telephone set 40B is repeated

with respect to all the image data which have been uploaded  
in the server 100. Further, the transmission of the image  
data from the portable telephone set 40B to the digital  
still camera 1B is repeated. Finally, the image data which  
5 have been uploaded in the server 100 are recorded on the  
memory card in the digital still camera 1B.

When the transmission of all the image data is  
terminated, the communication between the portable telephone  
set 40B and the server 100 and the communication between the  
10 portable telephone set 40B and the digital still camera 1B  
are cut off by the server 100.

Prior to receiving the image data in the portable  
telephone set 40B, the remaining capacity of the memory card  
mounted on the digital still camera 1B is transmitted to the  
15 portable telephone set 40B, and the amount of all the image  
data to be transmitted from the server 100 is transmitted to  
the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100. When  
the remaining capacity of the memory card is larger than the  
amount of all the image data to be transmitted, the setting  
20 button 52 in the portable telephone set 40B is pressed, as  
described above, so that a transmission command is  
transmitted to the server 100 from the portable telephone  
set 40B. When the remaining capacity of the memory card is  
smaller than the amount of all the image data, a new memory  
25 card will be mounted on the digital still camera 1B.

In the above-mentioned transmission and receiving of  
the image data, the image data are uploaded in the server

100 in accordance with the transmission list at the time of the transmission, while all the image data which have been uploaded in the server 100 are downloaded at the time of the receiving. However, the image data which should be  
5 transmitted and received may be designated for each frame and transmitted and received in accordance with the designation.

Fig. 12 is a flow chart showing the procedure of processing in a case where image data are designated for  
10 each frame and transmitted to the server 100 from the communication system 200A comprising the digital still camera 1A and the portable telephone set 40B.

The digital still camera 1A is first set in the communication mode.

15 The portable telephone set 40A is set in the image transmission mode, and a destination of transmission of the image data is also set.

When communication between the portable telephone set 40A and the digital still camera 1A is established, a  
20 recorded image list (see Fig. 13) including frame numbers corresponding to all image data which are recorded on the memory card 31 mounted on the digital still camera 1A is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40A from the digital still camera 1A. It goes without saying that the  
25 recorded image list is previously constructed in the digital still camera 1A. It goes without saying that when the communication between the digital still camera 1A and the



portable telephone set 40A is established, the image data which are recorded on the memory card 31 may be retrieved to read the frame number corresponding thereto and construct the recorded image list.

5           When the recorded image list is received in the portable telephone set 40A, the recorded image list is displayed on the liquid crystal display screen 43. The user selects the frame number of the desired image from the recorded image list which is displayed on the liquid crystal  
10 display screen 43. Data representing the selected frame number is transmitted to the digital still camera 1A from the portable telephone set 40B.

          When the data representing the frame number is received in the digital still camera 1A, image data  
15 representing the image (the original image) having the frame number and thumb-nail image data (previously produced in the camera 1A) are read out of the memory card 31. The image data representing the original image is fed to the liquid crystal display device 9, and is displayed thereon.  
20 Further, the thumb-nail image data which has been read out is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40A from the digital still camera 1A.

          When the thumb-nail image data is received in the portable telephone set 40A, a thumb-nail image represented  
25 by the thumb-nail image data is displayed on the liquid crystal display screen 43 in the portable telephone set 40A. The user sees the displayed thumb-nail image, to confirm

whether or not the image data representing the original image corresponding to the thumb-nail image should be transmitted to the server 100. When the image data representing the original image corresponding to the thumb-  
5 nail image is transmitted to the server 100, the setting button 52 is pressed by the user. Consequently, communication between the portable telephone set 40A and the server 100 is established.

When the setting button 52 in the portable telephone  
10 set 40B is pressed, a request for the original image is transmitted to the digital still camera 1A from the portable telephone set 40B.

When the request for the original image is received in the digital still camera 1A, the original image data is  
15 transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B in response to the request. It goes without saying that in the digital still camera 1A, the amount of image data may be decreased to transmit the image data whose amount is decreased to the portable telephone set 40B, if required.

20 The original image data is transmitted in packet units to the portable telephone set 40A from the digital still camera 1A.

Furthermore, the original image data is transmitted in packet units to the server 100 from the portable  
25 telephone set 40A.

Until the transmission of all the image data representing the images corresponding to desired frames is

terminated, the designation of the frame number of the image data to be transmitted to the server 100, the transmission to the portable telephone set 40A from the digital still camera 1A, and the transmission to the server 100 from the portable telephone set 40A are repeated.

Fig. 14 is a flow chart showing the procedure of processing in a case where image data are transmitted from the server 100 to the communication system 200B comprising the portable telephone set 40B and the digital still camera 1B.

The digital still camera 1B is set in the communication mode. Further, the portable telephone set 40B is set in the image receiving mode, so that an identification of the server 100 which should transmit the image data is set.

Consequently, communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the digital still camera 1B and communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the server 100 are respectively established.

When the communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the server 100 is established, an uploaded image list is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100. The uploaded image list is constructed in the server 100, and represents frame numbers of images represented by all the image data which have been transmitted from the portable telephone set 40A.

When the uploaded image list is received in the

portable telephone set 40B, the uploaded image list is displayed on the liquid crystal display screen 43 in the portable telephone set 40B. The user selects the frame number of the desired image from the uploaded image list which is displayed on the liquid crystal display screen 43. Data representing the selected frame number is transmitted to the server 100 from the portable telephone set 40B. Further, a request for a thumb-nail image corresponding to the image having the selected frame number is transmitted to the server 100 from the portable telephone set 40B.

When the request for the thumb-nail image is received in the server 100, data representing the thumb-nail image is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B in response to the request.

When the data representing the thumb-nail image is received in the portable telephone set 40B, the thumb-nail image is displayed on the liquid crystal display screen 43. The received data representing the thumb-nail image is transmitted to the digital still camera 1B from the portable telephone set 40B. The thumb-nail image is also displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 in the digital still camera 1B.

The user sees the image which has been displayed on the display screen 43 in the portable telephone set 40B, to depress the setting button 52 in receiving the image. Consequently, data representing the remaining capacity of the memory card is transmitted to the portable telephone set

40B from the digital still camera 1B. Further, data representing the amount of the data representing the selected original image is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100. When the data will  
5 not be received, the clear button 56 is depressed. Processing for receiving the subsequent image data is performed.

If the remaining capacity of the digital still camera 1B is larger than the amount of the original image data to  
10 be transmitted from the server 100, and the image data representing the image displayed on the display screen 43 in the portable telephone set 40B is acceptable, the setting button 52 in the portable telephone set 40B is depressed again by the user. Consequently, the original image data is  
15 transmitted in packet units to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100 (the image data is downloaded). Further, the original image data is transmitted in packet units to the digital still camera 1B from the portable telephone set 40B.

20 The original image data which has been received in the digital still camera 1B is recorded on the memory card. Further, the original image is displayed on the liquid crystal display device 9 in the digital still camera 1B.

Until all the image data representing the desired  
25 images are transmitted from the server 100, the selection of the image, the transmission of the image data from the server 100 to the portable telephone set 40B, and the

transmission from the portable telephone set 40B to the digital still camera 1B are repeated.

The cut button 57 in the portable telephone set 40B is depressed, so that the communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the digital still camera 1B and the communication between the portable telephone set 40B and the server 100 are cut off.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the uploaded image list which lists the frame numbers is transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100, the desired frame number is selected from the uploaded image list, to select the image to be received. However, data representing a list of thumb-nail images corresponding to the images having the frame numbers represented by the uploaded image list may be transmitted to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100, to select the desired image from the list of thumb-nail images. The frame number of the original image corresponding to the selected thumb-nail image will be transmitted to the server 100 from the portable telephone set 40B, to transmit image data representing the image having the frame number to the portable telephone set 40B from the server 100.

In the above-mentioned embodiment, the image data recorded on the digital still camera 1A are transmitted to the server 100 using the portable telephone set 40A, and the image data transmitted from the server 100 are received using the portable telephone set 40B and are recorded on the

digital still camera 1B. However, image data recorded on an image processor (an image file device, a personal computer, etc.) other than the digital still camera can be also transmitted. Further, an apparatus for recording image data is not limited to the digital still camera. For example, the other image processor can be also used. Further, image data received by the portable telephone set 40B can be fed to a printer and printed by the printer.

Although the present invention has been described and illustrated in detail, it is clearly understood that the same is by way of illustration and example only and is not to be taken by way of limitation, the spirit and scope of the present invention being limited only by the terms of the appended claims.

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image communication system in which an image processor and a portable telephone set can establish data communication with each other, image data representing an image being stored in said image processor, and a reading command to read out the image data being issued to the image processor from the portable telephone set, wherein

said image processor comprises

first transmission means for transmitting the stored image data to said portable telephone set in response to the reading command issued from said portable telephone set, and

said portable telephone set comprises

setting means for setting a destination of transmission of the image data,

receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from said first transmission means in said image processor, and

second transmission means for transmitting the image data received by said receiving means to the destination of transmission set by said setting means through a communication network.

2. The image communication system according to claim 1, wherein

both the data communication between said image processor and said portable telephone set and the data communication between said portable telephone set and said destination of transmission are established by radio, and



a radio frequency band between said image processor and said portable telephone set and a radio frequency band between said portable telephone set and said destination of communication differ from each other.

5           3. A portable telephone set which can establish data communication with a first image processor storing image data, comprising:

command means for issuing a reading command to read out the image data to said first image processor;

10           setting means for setting a destination of transmission of the image data;

first receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted from said image processor in response to the reading command issued by said command means; and

15           first transmission means for transmitting the image data received by said first receiving means to the destination of transmission set by said setting means through a communication network.

20           4. The portable telephone set according to claim 3, further comprising

selection means for selecting the image data which should be transmitted to the destination of transmission set by said setting means, and

25           selected data transmission means for transmitting data specifying the image data selected by said selection means to said first image processor,

said first transmission means transmitting the image

data transmitted from said first image processor in  
accordance with the selected data to said destination of  
transmission.

5 5. The portable telephone set according to claim 4,  
further comprising

list data receiving means for receiving list data  
representing a list of image data stored in said first image  
processor,

10 said selection means selecting the image data to be  
transmitted from the list represented by the list data  
received by said list data receiving means.

6. The portable telephone set according to claim 3,  
further comprising

15 second receiving means for receiving the image data  
transmitted through the communication network, and

second transmission means for transmitting the image  
data received by said second receiving means to a second  
image processor.

20 7. The portable telephone set according to claim 6,  
further comprising

judgment means for judging whether or not the data  
amount of the image data to be received by said second  
receiving means is not more than the amount of data which  
can be stored in said second image processor,

25 said second receiving means receiving the image data  
when it is judged that the data amount of the image data to  
be received by said second receiving means is not more than

the amount of data which can be stored in said second image processor.

8. The portable telephone set according to claim 6, further comprising

5 receiving command means for entering a receiving command to receive the image data,

said second receiving means receiving the image data when the receiving command is entered from said receiving command means.

10 9. A portable telephone set which can establish data communication with an image processor storing image data, comprising:

receiving means for receiving the image data transmitted through a communication network; and

15 transmission means for transmitting the image data received by said receiving means to said image processor.

10. A digital camera which can establish data communication with a portable telephone set and can store image data, comprising:

20 receiving means for receiving a reading command issued from said portable telephone set; and

transmission means for transmitting the stored image data to said portable telephone set in response to the reading command received by said receiving means.

25 11. The digital camera according to claim 10, wherein

the image data which should be transmitted to said

portable telephone set is determined, and

said transmission means transmits the determined image data to said portable telephone set in response to said reading command.

5           12. In a portable telephone set which can establish data communication with an image processor storing image data, a method of controlling the operations of the portable telephone set, comprising the steps of:

issuing a reading command to read out the image data  
10 to said image processor;

setting a destination of transmission of the image data;

receiving the image data transmitted from said image processor in response to the reading command; and

15 transmitting the received image data to said set destination of transmission through the telephone line.

13. In a portable telephone set which can establish data communication with an image processor storing image data, a method of controlling the operations of the portable  
20 telephone set, comprising the steps of:

receiving the image data transmitted through a communication network; and

transmitting the received image data to said image processor.

25           14. In a digital camera which can establish data communication with a portable telephone set and can store image data, a method of controlling the operations of the

digital camera, comprising the steps of:

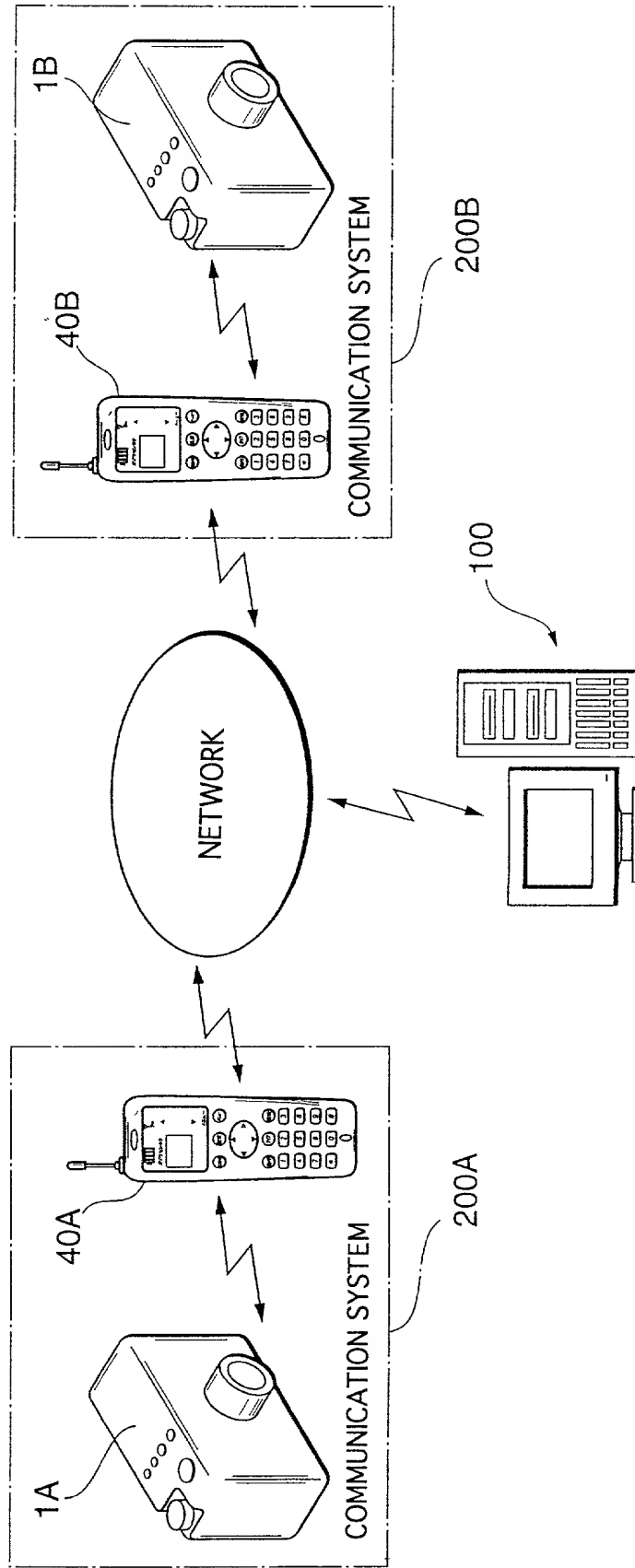
receiving a reading command issued from said portable telephone set; and

transmitting the stored image data to said portable  
5 telephone set in response to the received reading command.

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Transmission and receiving of image data recorded on a digital still camera to and from a server are controlled by a portable telephone set. At the time of transmission, communication between the portable telephone set and the digital still camera and communication between the portable telephone set and the server are established. A reading command is issued from the portable telephone set to the camera. Image data are transmitted in packet units to the portable telephone set from the camera in response to the reading command. The image data is transmitted to the server from the portable telephone set. At the time of receiving, when the communication is established, all image data are transmitted to the portable telephone set from the server. All the image data are transmitted to the camera from the portable telephone set and are recorded in the camera. It is possible to control the transmission and receiving of the image data by the portable telephone set.

Fig. 1



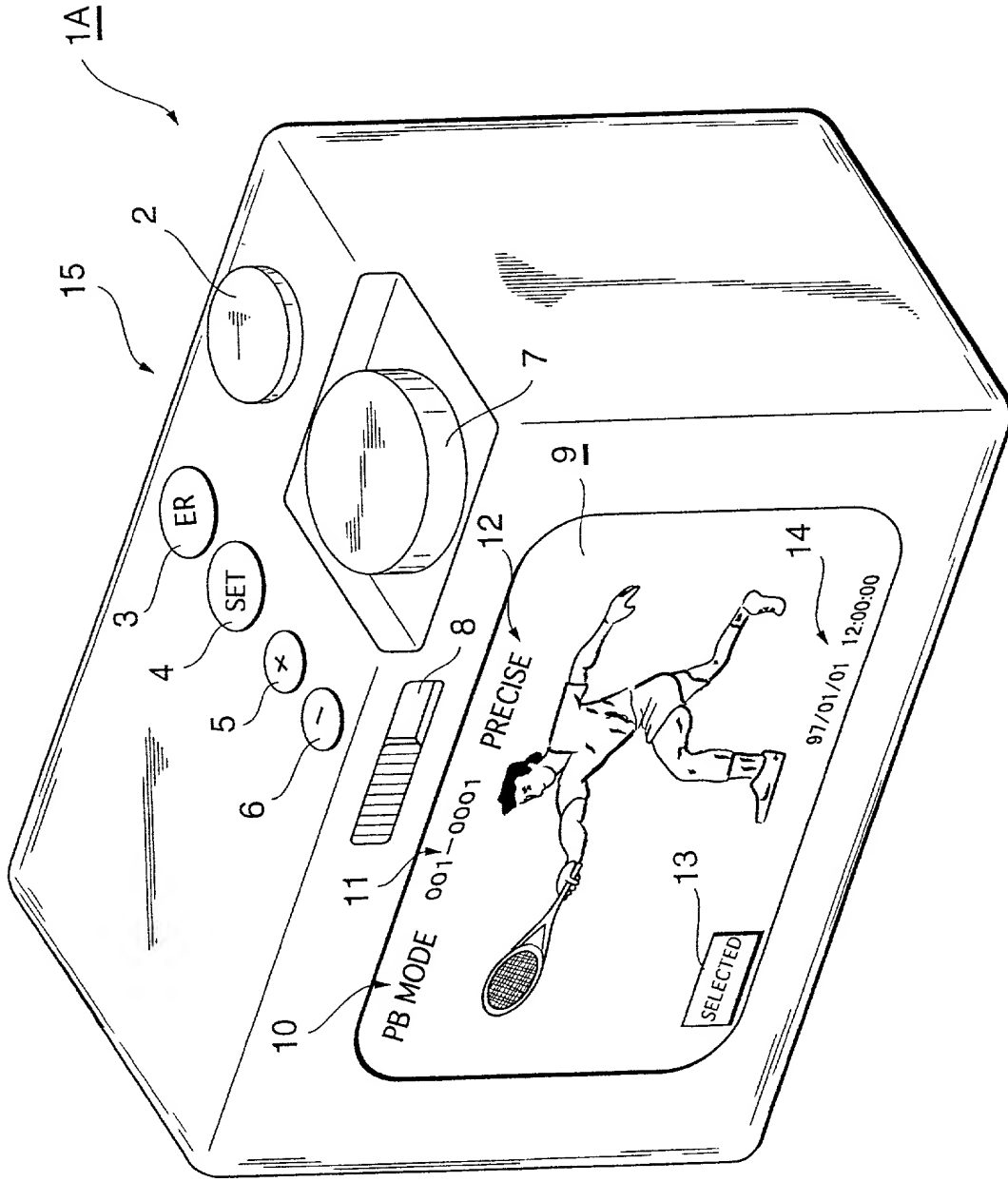
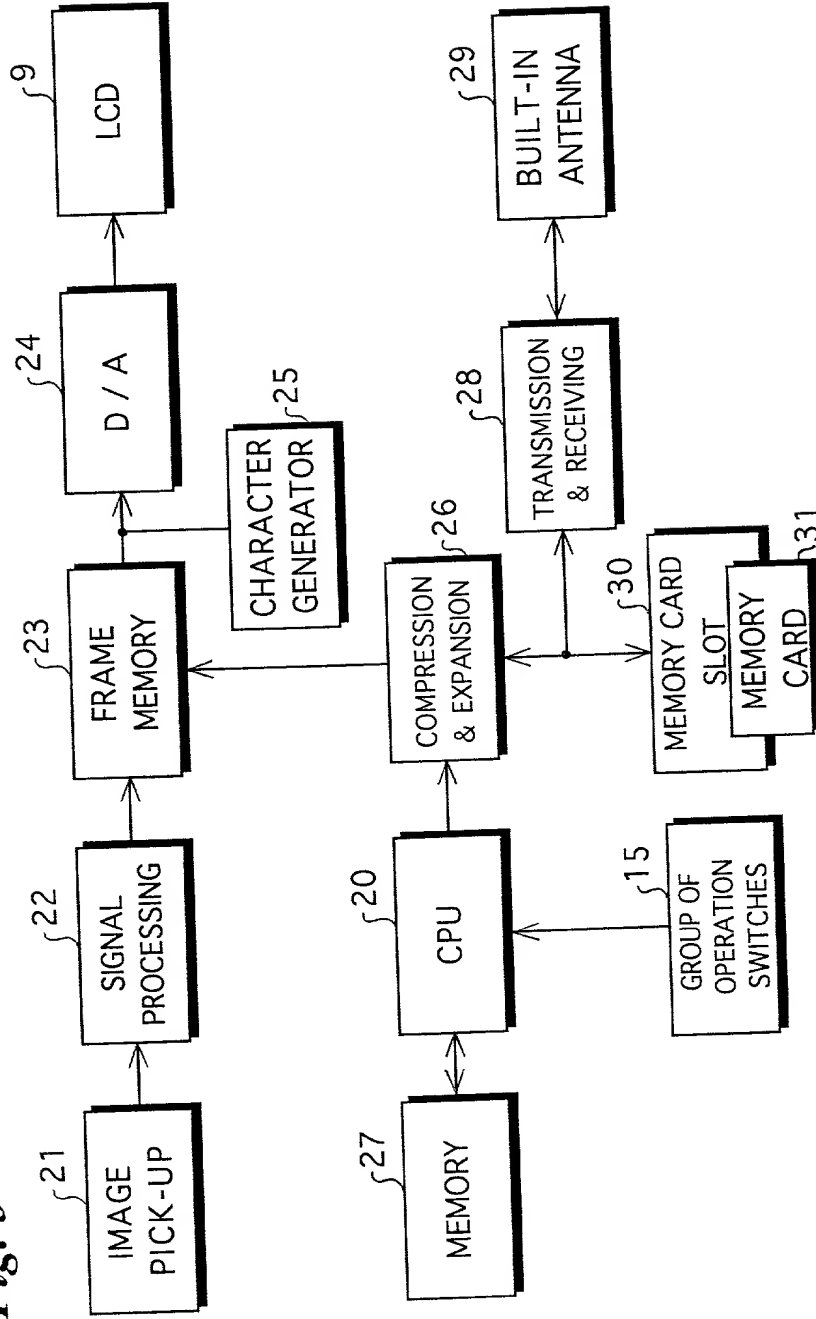
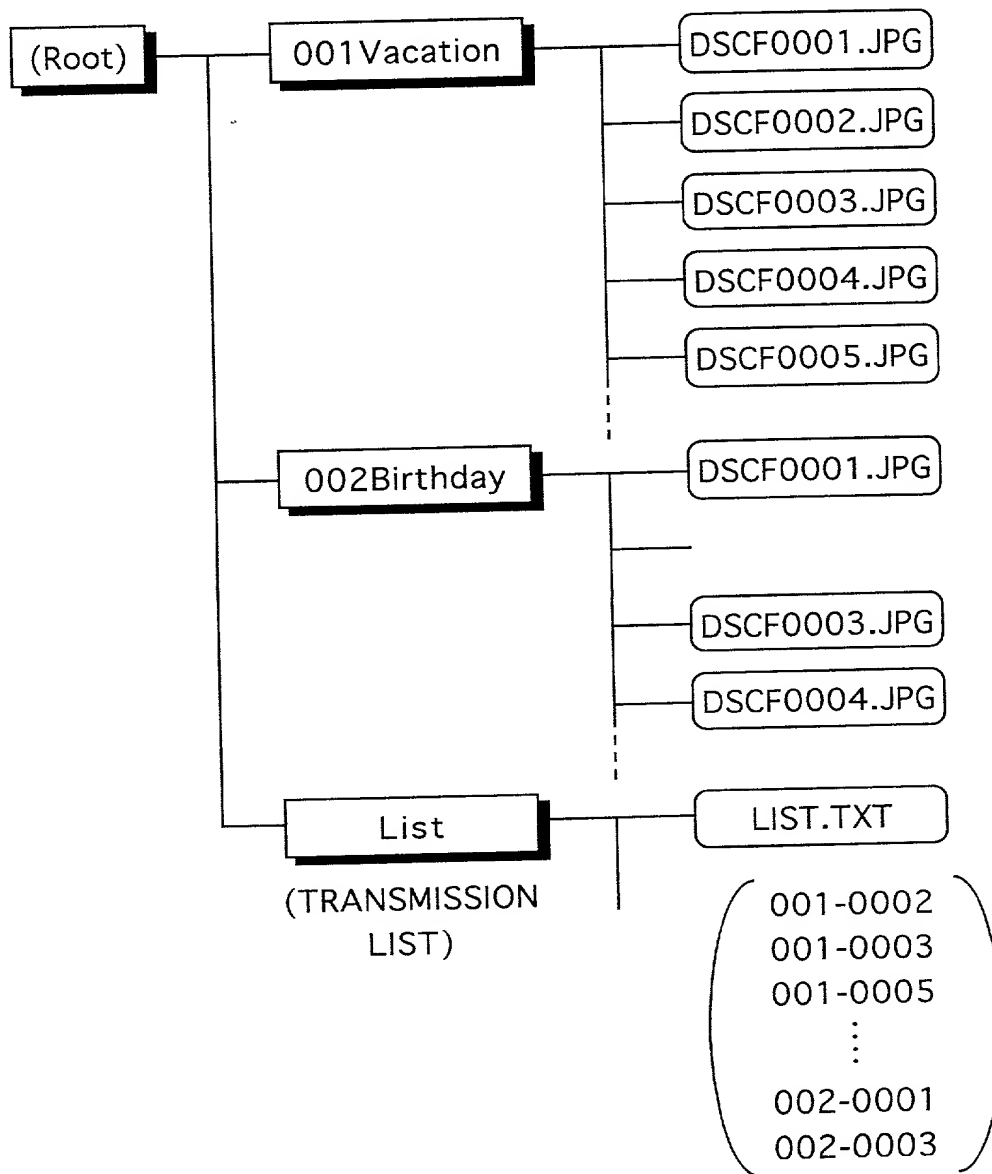


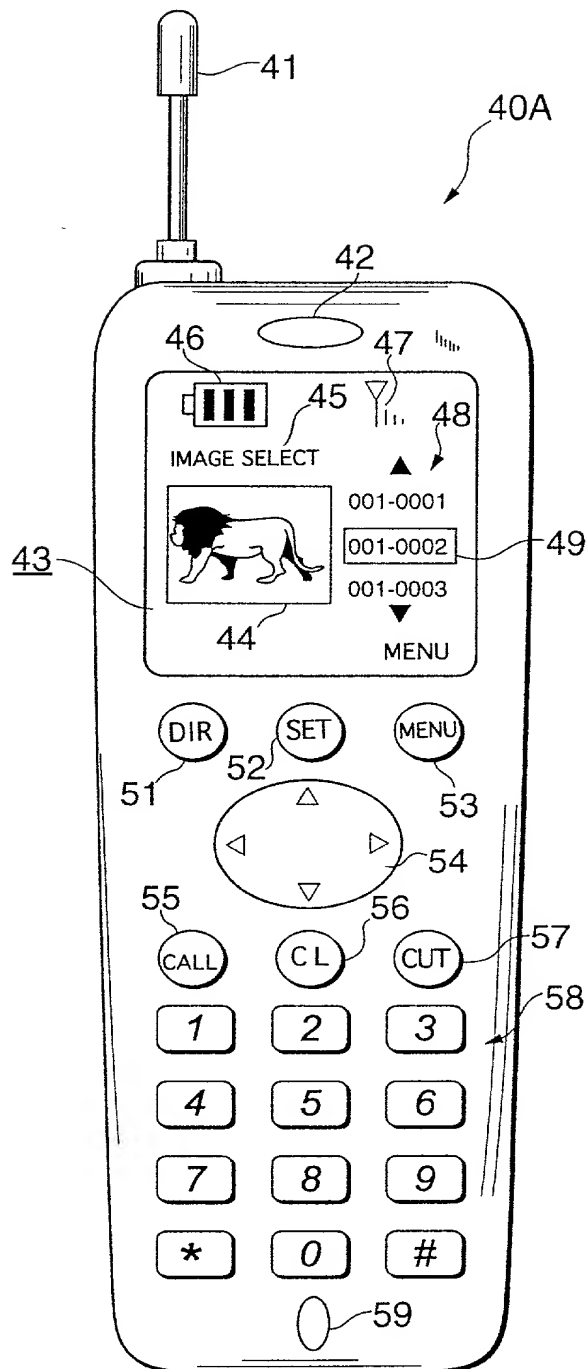
Fig. 2



Fig. 3



*Fig. 4*

*Fig. 5*

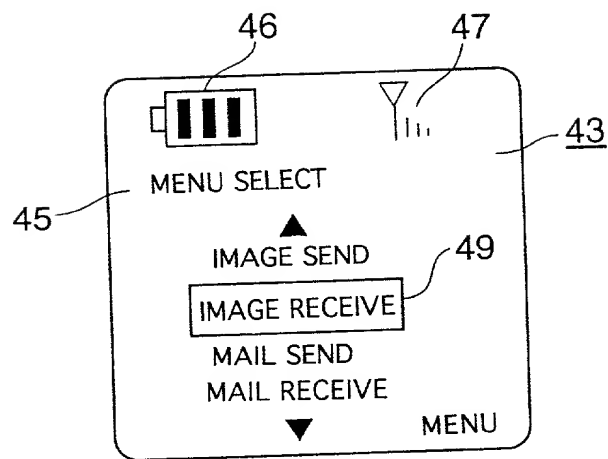
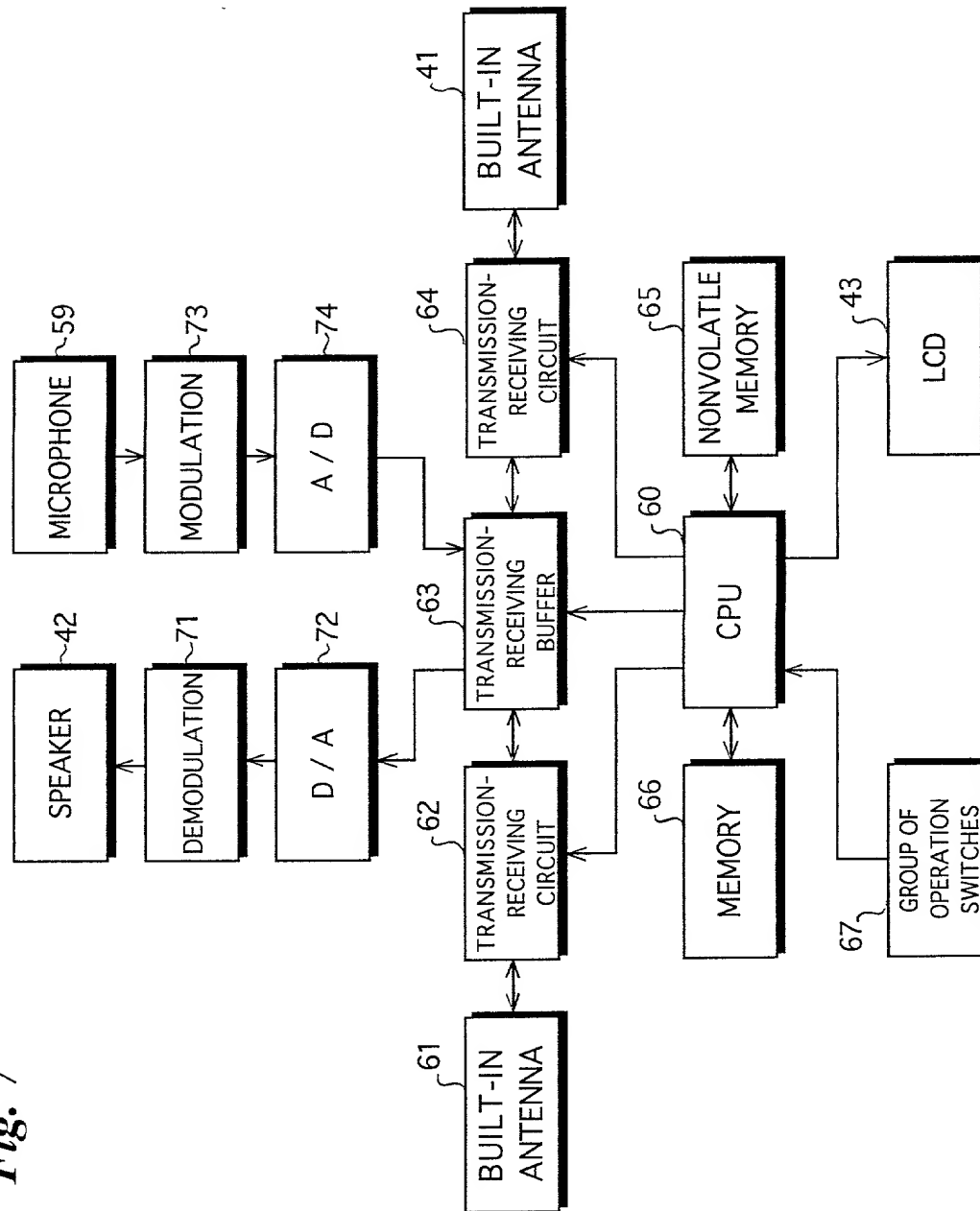
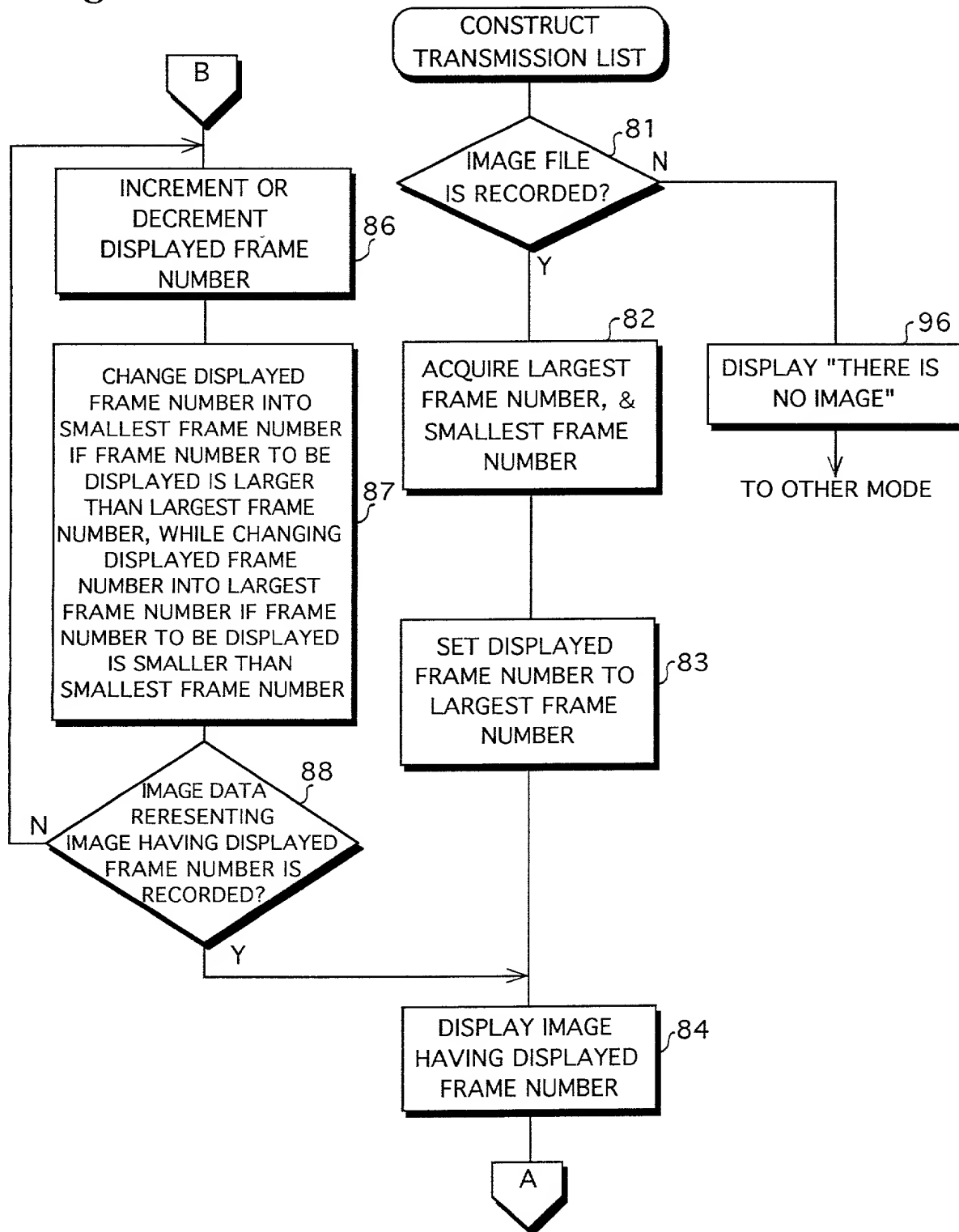
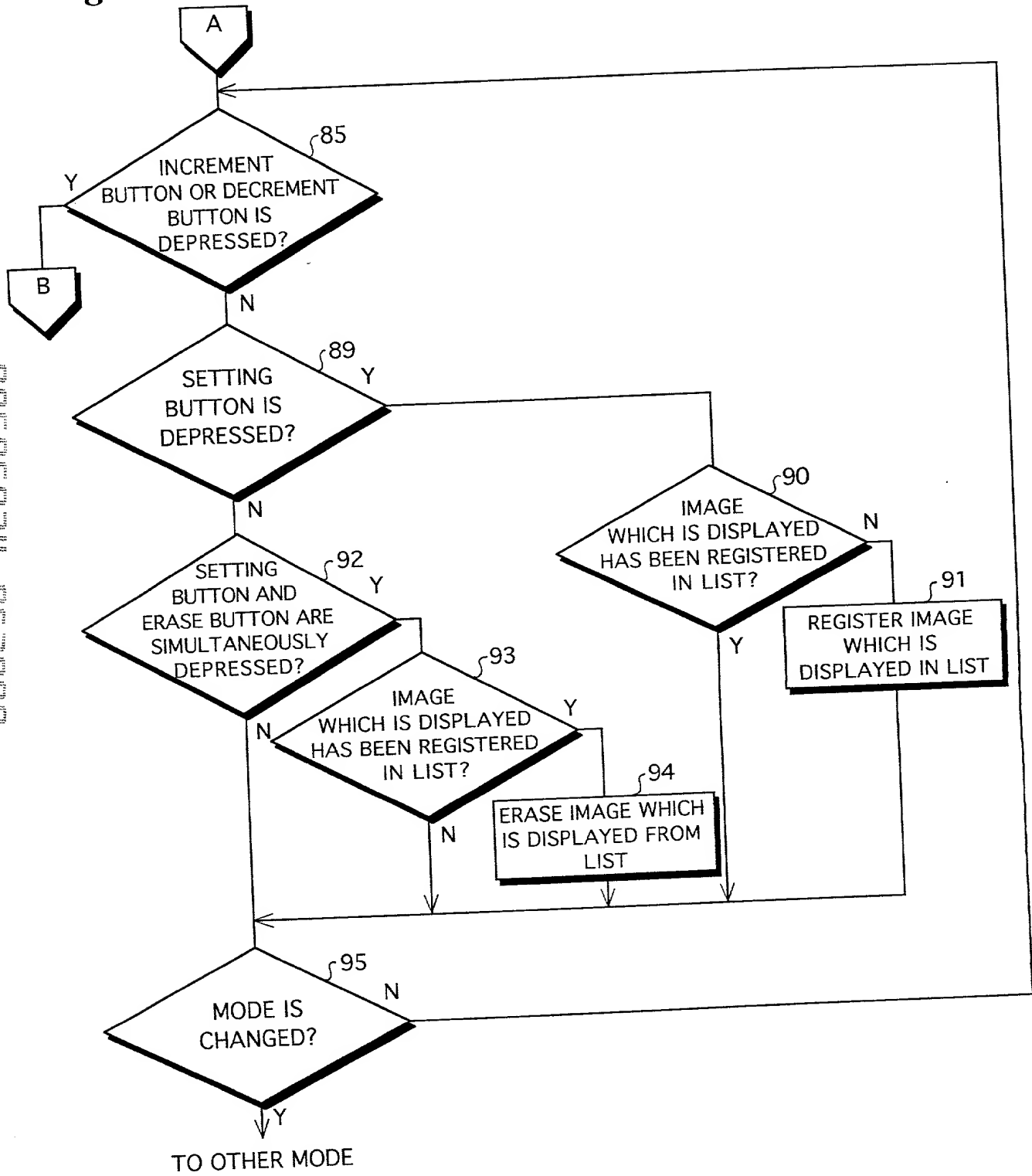
*Fig. 6*

Fig. 7



**Fig. 8**

**Fig. 9**

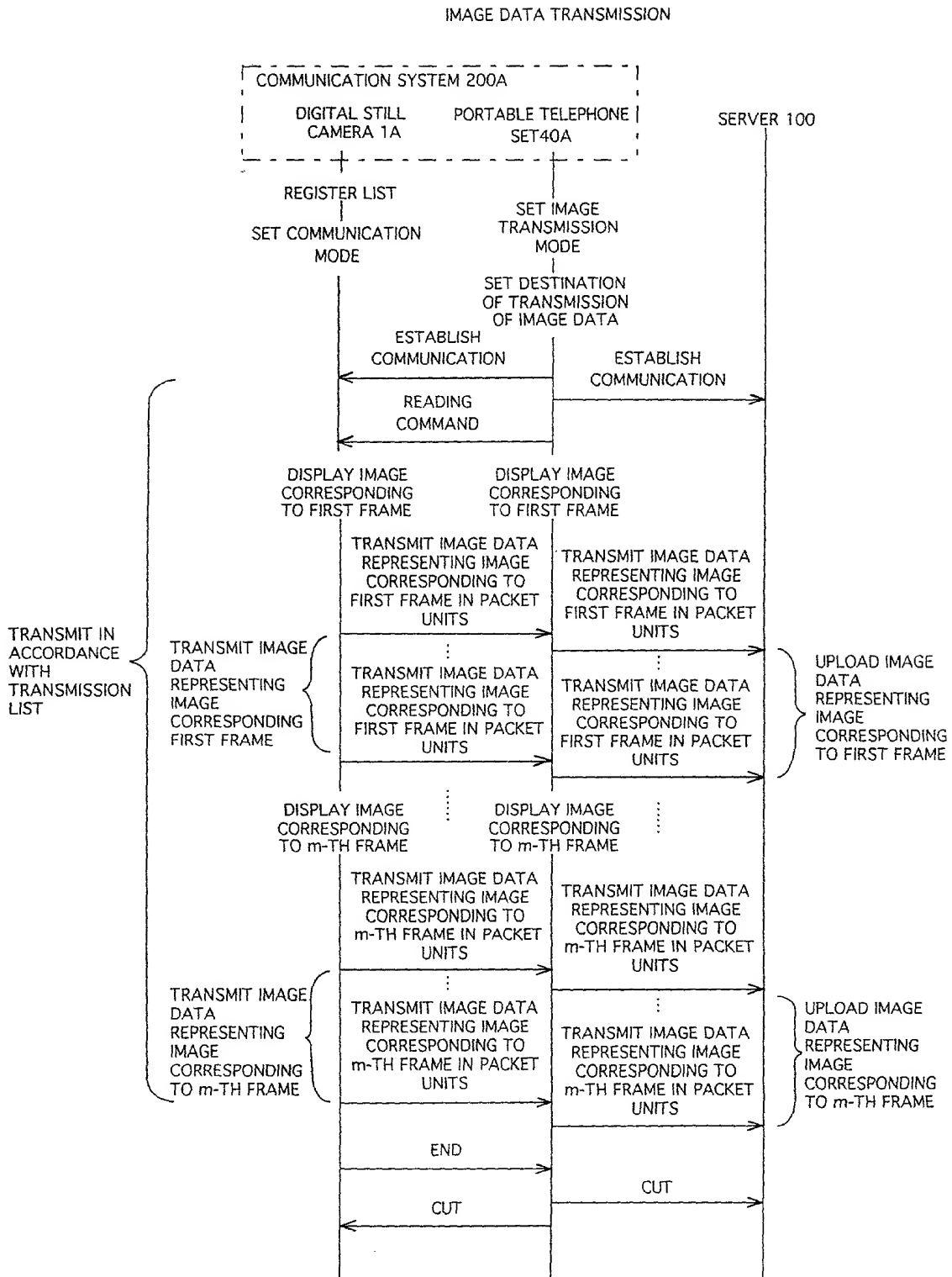
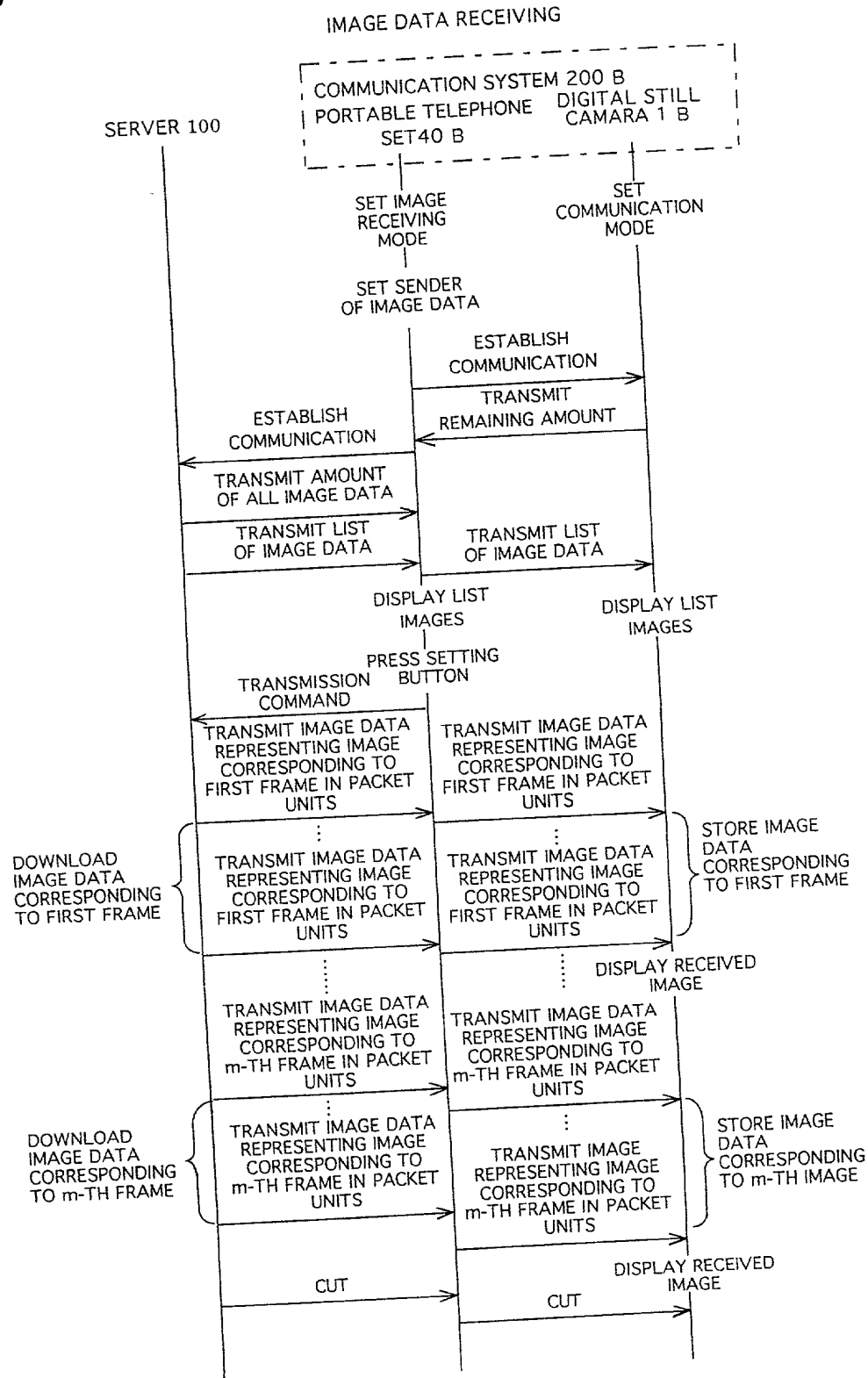
**Fig. 10**



Fig. 11





*Fig. 13*RECORDED  
IMAGE LIST

001-0001

001-0002

001-0003

001-0004

001-0005

⋮

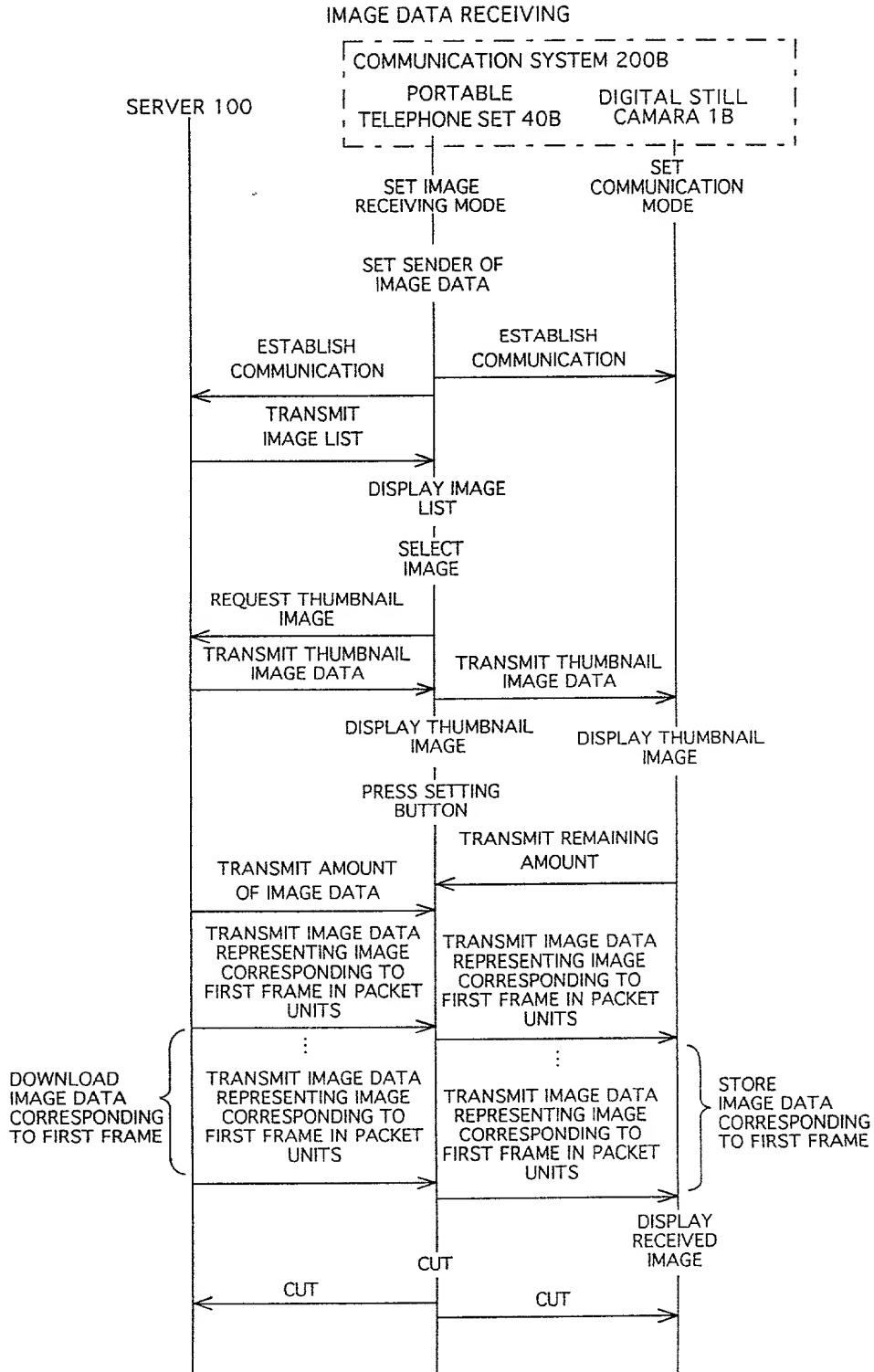
002-0001

002-0002

002-0003

⋮

Fig. 14



PLEASE NOTE:  
YOU MUST  
COMPLETE THE  
FOLLOWING

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Attorney Docket No.  
0905-0239P

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT AND DESIGN APPLICATIONS

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that: my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name; that I verily believe that I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one inventor is named below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural inventors are named below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

IMAGE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

Insert Title:

Fill in Appropriate  
Information -  
For Use Without  
Specification  
Attached:

the specification of which is attached hereto. If not attached hereto,  
the specification was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as  
United States Application Number \_\_\_\_\_;  
and amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable) and/or  
the specification was filed on \_\_\_\_\_ as PCT  
International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_; and was  
amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I do not know and do not believe the same was ever known or used in the United States of America before my or our invention thereof, or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my or our invention thereof or more than one year prior to this application, that the same was not in public use or on sale in the United States of America more than one year prior to this application, that the invention has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate issued before the date of this application in any country foreign to the United States of America on an application filed by me or my legal representative or assigns more than twelve months (six months for designs) prior to this application, and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed in any country foreign to the United States of America prior to this application by me or my legal representatives or assigns, except as follows.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

### Prior Foreign Application(s)

### Priority Claimed

Insert Priority  
Information:  
(if appropriate)

|             |           |                        |   |                             |
|-------------|-----------|------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| JP11-184876 | Japan     | 06/30/1999             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (Number)    | (Country) | (Month/Day/Year Filed) |   |                             |
| _____       | _____     | _____                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (Number)    | (Country) | (Month/Day/Year Filed) |   |                             |
| _____       | _____     | _____                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (Number)    | (Country) | (Month/Day/Year Filed) |   |                             |
| _____       | _____     | _____                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| (Number)    | (Country) | (Month/Day/Year Filed) |   |                             |

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119(e) of any United States provisional applications(s) listed below.

Insert Provisional  
Application(s):  
(if any)

|                      |               |
|----------------------|---------------|
| _____                | _____         |
| (Application Number) | (Filing Date) |
| _____                | _____         |
| (Application Number) | (Filing Date) |

All Foreign Applications, if any, for any Patent or Inventor's Certificate Filed More than 12 Months (6 Months for Designs) Prior to the Filing Date of This Application:

| Country | Application Number | Date of Filing (Month/Day/Year) |
|---------|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| _____   | _____              | _____                           |
| _____   | _____              | _____                           |

Insert Requested  
Information:  
(if appropriate)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States and/or PCT application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States and/or PCT application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

Insert Prior U.S.  
Application(s):  
(if any)

|                      |               |   |
|----------------------|---------------|---|
| _____                | _____         | _____                                   |
| (Application Number) | (Filing Date) | (Status - patented, pending, abandoned) |
| _____                | _____         | _____                                   |
| (Application Number) | (Filing Date) | (Status - patented, pending, abandoned) |

I hereby appoint the following attorneys to prosecute this application and/or an international application based on this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith and in connection with the resulting patent based on instructions received from the entity who first sent the application papers to the attorneys identified below, unless the inventor(s) or assignee provides said attorneys with a written notice to the contrary:

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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